

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) Process for testing switching system receiving data units according to a point-to-point transmission interface format originating from an external network facility, the data units transporting packets of a higher layer protocol, the process comprising the steps of:

- processing first data units originating from the external network facility so as to recover first packets transported by the first data units;
- test generating test traffic carried by second packets of said higher layer protocol;
- multiplexing the first and second packets so as to form a stream of multiplexed packets;
- converting the stream of multiplexed packets into second data units according to said point-to-point transmission interface format; and
- transmitting the second data units to the switching system.

2. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the generation of the test traffic comprises producing a stream of data units according to a interface format transporting said second packets; and processing said stream of data units so as to recover the second packets.

3. (previously presented) Process according to claim 2, wherein said specified interface format is distinct from said point-to-point transmission interface format.

4. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of setting states of the switching system by means of the first packets by way of the external network facility.

5. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the switching system is linked to several external network facilities and states of the switching system are set by way of at least one of said external network facilities.

6. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein said higher layer protocol is an IP protocol.

7. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of performing an arbitration between the first and second packets before multiplexing.

8. (previously presented) Device for inserting traffic comprising first and second interface modules supporting a point-to-point transmission interface format for transferring data units transporting packets of a higher layer protocol, the first interface module being arranged to receive first data units originating from a network facility and the second interface module being arranged to send second data units to a switching system, the device further comprising multiplexing means for forming a stream of multiplexed packets comprising first packets recovered by the first interface module from the first data units and second packets of said higher layer protocol carrying additional traffic, the second data units being produced by the second interface module on the basis of the stream of multiplexed packets.

9. (previously presented) Device according to claim 8, further comprising a third interface for receiving a stream of data units according to a specified interface format originating from an external traffic source and recovering said second packets from said stream of data units.

10. (previously presented) Device according to claim 9, wherein said specified interface format is distinct from said point-to-point transmission interface format.

11. (previously presented) Device according to claim 8, incorporated into a traffic source generating the second packets carrying said additional traffic.

12. (previously presented) Device according to claim 8, wherein said higher layer protocol is an IP protocol.